

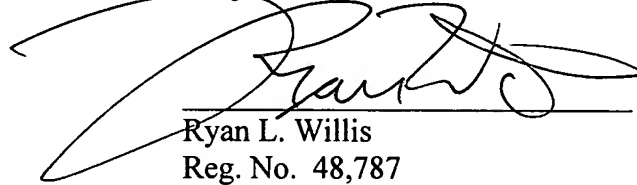
REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 10-13, 15, and 18-22 are pending. Claims 2, 4, 8, 9, 14, 16, 17, and 23 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 10-13, 15, and 18-22 have been amended. Consideration and prompt issuance of the pending claims and application are respectfully requested.

Applicant submits concurrently herewith the requisite materials to enter the national stage of the United States. Applicant has authorized payment of the requisite fees, submitted an executed declaration, and provided a copy of the international application as published by WIPO. It should be noted, however, that a certified copy of each priority application was transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office pursuant to the designation of the United States during the international stage.

If the Examiner wishes to discuss any aspect of this response, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



Ryan L. Willis  
Reg. No. 48,787

30074  
Taft, Stettinius & Hollister LLP  
425 Walnut Street; Suite 1800  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-3957  
willis@taftlaw.com  
(513) 357-9663